# MINUTES OF MEETING State Board of Education April 3, 2008

The April meeting of the State Board of Education was held in Concord CD Conference Room of the West Des Moines Marriott, West Des Moines, Iowa. The following Board members were present: Gene Vincent, Kameron Dodge, Charlie Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Brian Gentry, Wayne Kobberdahl, Mary Jean Montgomery, and Max Phillips. State Board member absent: Rosie Hussey. Director Judy Jeffrey and Department staff Gail Sullivan, Carol Greta, Jeff Berger, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Kevin Fangman, Jim Addy, Janice Friedel, Del Hoover, Su McCurdy, Jyl Huskey, Rita Martens, Jim Reese, Deborah Humpal, Arlie Willems, Matt Ludwig, Jeremy Varner, Kent Farver, Roger Utman, Roger Foelske, Ken Maguire, Janet Woodruff, Mary Ann Adams, Pat Thieben, and Beverlee Adams were also present. Others present were: Dr. Kay Forsythe, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency; Denise Carlson, Heartland Area Education Agency; Sue Runyon, Keystone AEA 1; Maureen Busta, Upper Iowa University; Ellen O'Keefe, Mt. Mercy College; Dr. Dave Else, University of Northern Iowa, Michelle Parker, KCCI-TV; and Dar Danielson, Radio Iowa.

#### COMMUNICATION

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Director Report**

Director Jeffrey reported that Iowa is one of seven states selected to join the National Coalition to bring 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to education.

Jeffrey noted that Janice Friedel authored a chapter in the magazine, "Governance in the Community College."

The Department of Education Strategic Plan and the Iowa Statewide Profile of Public Schools brochure was handed out by Jeffrey.

Jeffrey reported on the Research into Action Forum she had attended in Chicago, Illinois. A national expert in classroom assessment provided information to the Iowa team. Margaret Heritage from UCLA indicated her interest in continuing to work with the Department on the roll-out of the core curriculum.

Director Jeffrey said she would be reporting to the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce on April 18.

Two publications, *Iowa's Reading First Program* and *Accelerating Adolescent Literacy* were handed out and reviewed by Jeffrey.

Jeffrey provided an update on the Russell Community School District Phase II process.

Director Jeffrey reported that Iowa Learning On-Line is being moved to the Department of Education and Iowa Public Television will continue to provide technical support.

Jeffrey invited Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison, to join her to provide a legislative update on education and education related issues.

## State Board Business Meeting

President Vincent called the meeting to order. Mary Jean Montgomery moved approval of the agenda as presented. Brian Gentry seconded.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the March 11, 2008 State Board of Education meeting were approved.

#### Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 68, "Charter Schools", amendments were approved for adoption.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 12, "General Accreditation Standards", amendments were approved for adoption.

## **Religious Groups Exempted from School Standards**

Forty-eight religious groups were approved for exemption from the compulsory education and school standards laws under Iowa Code section 299.24.

# Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

The Concordia Lutheran School request was approved to grant general accreditation approval for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Currently grades K-7 are accredited.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

# Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies (AEAs)

Jyl Huskey, Budget Analyst, Division of School Support and Information and Kay Forsythe, Administrator, Prairie Lakes AEA 8, presented this agenda item.

Ms. Huskey indicated that Iowa Code section 273.3, subsection 12, requires that the Board either grant approval for AEA budgets or return the budgets without approval with comments by April of each year. The Board gives final approval only to budgets submitted by AEAs accredited by the Board or that have been given conditional accreditation by the Board. All area education agencies have been accredited for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Kay Forsythe provided an overview of how AEA budgets work and the difficulties in managing budgets and providing quality services in areas with declining enrollments. Additional services for school districts were being requested of AEAs for implementation of new projects. She highlighted that the positive working relationship between the area education agencies and the Department of Education strengthened the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided by AEAs.

Discussion continued on the funding streams for AEAs and how the Board could encourage legislative dollars to be used for the many services provided to local school districts and communities.

**Motion:** It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery to approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2008-2009 as presented.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Appeal Decision**

Carol Greta, Legal Counsel reviewed the appeal *In re Nicole P.*, 25 D.o.E., Appeal Decision 47. She indicated that the Appellant seeks reversal of the December 17, 2007, decision of the local board of directors of the Waukee Community School District. Iowa Code section 282.18, and the exception to the statutory filing deadline of March 1 in 282.18(5) regarding applications that seek open enrollment due to "repeated acts of harassment of the student" was the controlling statute for this appeal. Greta indicated that results of all appeals are provided to districts for guidance.

**Motion:** Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and Mary Jean Montgomery seconded approval to affirm the decision of the Waukee Community School District local school board to deny the open enrollment application filed on behalf of Nicole P.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## Chapter 36, Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition" (Adopt)

Carol Greta, Legal Counsel, passed along appreciation to State Board members from many educators, athletic directors, and the athletic associations for the work and positive changes made to Chapter 36. She also indicated that the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union are in the process of crafting a handbook to be used by school districts that will incorporate the rule amendments.

Greta said that in March 2006 (effective in the 2006-07 school year) the statewide academic standard for secondary student participation in interscholastic athletics was increased by the Board from "pass four courses" to "pass all credit courses." The consequence for not meeting the standard was simultaneously decreased from one full semester to 20 school days in the athletic activity in which the student was a bona fide competitor. Greta indicated that through its monitoring of the implementation of the new rule, the Board received feedback that the "pass all" standard was accepted by a large majority of school officials, students, and students' families, but the consequence was of concern to many. In April 2007, a subcommittee of the Board was formed to make recommendations to the Board as a whole. The proposed amendments reflect those recommendations, as well as other amendments designed to make other aspects of the rules more equitable.

**Motion:** Max Phillips moved and Charlie Edwards seconded approval to adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 36.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

President Vincent and other Board members offered thanks to Carol Greta and the subcommittee for the follow-up on Chapter 36 rule amendments. The Board was proud of the process used to accomplish this goal.

## Carl D. Perkins Five-Year State Plan

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Roger Utman, Bureau Chief and Roger Foelske, Administrative Consultant, presented information on the Carl D. Perkins state plan.

Mr. Utman reviewed the allocation areas in the Perkins plan and Roger Foelske provided an overview of the federal accountability mandates. In completion of the reauthorization of the 2006 Perkins Act, Congress showed its overwhelming support for career and technical education. Friedel stated that the Perkins funds are critical to the continued provision of high school and postsecondary career and technical programs in lowa. A summary of public comments received during the public hearing were also highlighted.

**Motion:** Max Phillips moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded approval of Iowa's Carl D. Perkins Five Year State Plan—July 1, 2008-June 30, 2013.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## 2007 Condition of Iowa Community Colleges

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Jeremy Varner, and Kent Farver, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, were available for presentation of this agenda item. The report provided updated information utilizing 2007 data, provides statewide community college trends, and also provides selected national trends. Dr. Friedel said that this year's report includes a new section related to community college on-line course enrollments.

Jeremy Varner reviewed the major components of the community college report: credit enrollments and demographics, non-credit enrollments and demographics, success of community college students, credit student awards, and human resources. Kent Farver outlined the financial data and statewide strategic plan performance indicators.

The Condition of Iowa Community Colleges report is supported by the Management Information System (MIS) data, as reported by Iowa community colleges to the Iowa Department of Education, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation.

## **Iowa Core Curriculum**

Kevin Fangman, Administrator, and Rita Martens, Lead Consultant, Division of PK-12 Education reported that the passage of Senate File 588 had directed the Department to expand the Iowa Core Curriculum to include K-8 Literacy, Mathematics, and Science; and K-12 Social Studies and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Martens said a Lead Team and Work Teams were established last fall to articulate the essential concepts and skill sets of these content areas. She introduced three team members that were present: Maureen Busta, Upper Iowa University; Sue Runyon, Keystone AEA 1; and Denise Carlson, Heartland AEA 11. Ms. Martens indicated that the report describes the inclusive, collaborative process the Department implemented to develop the Iowa core curriculum work. The curriculum project has two guiding principles:

- Pare down the volume of what is taught.
- Focus on what's essential for students to master.

Martens said the first-phase report encompassed high school literacy, math, and science and was endorsed by the State Board in Spring, 2006. In the last two years, the Department has worked with area education agencies to introduce this new strategy to lowa high school classrooms. Authors of that first report urged education leaders to continue past high school and three subjects. In 2007, the legislature passed a bill expanding the scope of the lowa Core Curriculum to include kindergarten through grade 8 for math, science and literacy and to add social studies and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (employability skills, financial literacy, health literacy and technology literacy) for kindergarten through grade 12.

Members of the Lead and Work Teams have noted that the biggest challenge has been narrowing the focus to just the essential skills and content for each subject. They also believe it is among their most crucial roles.

Continued Board discussion indicated that support is growing for making meaningful, significant change in lowa schools. Kevin Fangman noted that the Department and area education agencies have partnered to offer extensive professional development to guide high school teachers in infusing more rigorous and relevant work in their classrooms.

**Vote:** Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and Charlie Edwards seconded that the essential concepts and skill sets of the Iowa Core Curriculum in grades K-8 Literacy, Mathematics, and Science; and grades 9-12 Social Studies and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills be approved.

**Motion:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Mount Mercy College--Master of Arts in Education Degree**

Arlie Willems, Administrative Consultant, Practitioner Preparation, reviewed the findings of the team site visit for the Mount Mercy College Master of Arts in Education Degree. Dr. Ellen O'Keefe, Mt. Mercy College was also present for this discussion.

Willems reported that the proposed Master of Arts in Education program is seeking to provide licensed teachers with an advanced program of studies that will enhance their abilities as teacher practitioners. Areas of emphasis provided include:

- Reading K-8
- Instructional Strategist I K-8
- Instructional Strategist I 5-12
- Instructional Strategist II K-12
- Non-licensure Option: Master of Arts in Special Education

The team examined six general areas: Governance and Resources, Diversity, Faculty Performance and Development, Clinical Practice, Assessment of Candidate Knowledge, and Assessment of the Unit. Curricula outlines, curriculum exhibits, and course syllabi were also reviewed. Ms. Willems also outlined the strengths and areas of concern that were addressed during the on-site review. Having met all the requirements of the Master of Arts in Education program, the Department recommends the Mount Mercy program be approved.

The potential expansion of content areas of emphasis was discussed and Dr. O'Keefe responded to this concern.

**Motion:** It was moved by Max Phillips and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery to approve the Mount Mercy College Master of Arts in Education degree program as proposed.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **University of Northern Iowa Superintendent Preparation Program**

Mr. Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator, Division of PK-12 Education, and Dr. David Else, University of Northern Iowa outlined the Review Panel's findings for the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), superintendent preparation program request.

The University of Northern Iowa proposed program is comprised of eight core courses, several of which include embedded practical experiences in schools as well as a one-year (twelve consecutive months) internship that affords candidates the opportunity to explore a full cycle of tasks done by superintendents. Among the eight core courses is a recurring seminar in educational leadership. The seminar is designed around the American Association of School Administrators Standards for the Superintendency, the Iowa Standards for School Leaders (ISSL) and McREL superintendent research related to the development of Leaders of Learners, Service and Change. In this seminar candidates reflect upon the knowledge and skills acquired during their preparation program and relate them to their future roles as superintendents.

Del Hoover reported the findings of the panel indicated a concern during the initial review that the proposal focused more on fiscal and operational leadership than on student achievement. The preparation of future superintendents at UNI has been clarified to focus on administrators who will be Leaders of Change, Leaders of Learners, and Leaders of Service.

The revised program proposal by UNI demonstrates awareness that change was needed for the program and strong administrative support at the institutional level is now evident.

Dr. Else provided additional overview of the program and also thanked Director Judy Jeffrey for her leadership and collaboration for continued growth in education with all stakeholders in the state of lowa.

The panel recommends that the University of Northern Iowa proposed superintendent preparation program be approved.

**Motion:** Mary Jean Montgomery moved and Max Phillips seconded that the State Board approve the University of Northern lowa superintendent preparation program through the next state visit cycle scheduled for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Board Reports**

<u>Max Phillips</u> reported on the meetings of the Iowa Business Council and the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce.

<u>Sister Jude Fitzpatrick</u> - No report.

Brian Gentry – No report.

Wayne Kobberdahl - No report.

Kameron Dodge - No report.

Charlie Edwards - No report.

Mary Jean Montgomery reported on the following:

Leadership/Partnership Update
Iowa Public Television upcoming meeting
NASBE Strategic Planning Committee membership
Leave No Child Behind (Early Childhood) Lab/Conference–April 18 (NW Iowa)

Recommendation for Emeritus status on the State Board of Education

Ms. Montgomery also said she had enjoyed her time serving as a State Board member and thanked Board members and Department staff.

Gene Vincent thanked the Board and staff for the achievements and work accomplished during his tenure on the State Board. He appreciated the relationships and trust established to move education forward and create a positive educational experience for all learners.

President Vincent handed out the proposed topics for the May State Board meeting and indicated the date had been changed from May 8 to May 14.

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting.

Gene E. Vincent

President

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director and
Executive Officer